

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A document capture system for use by a user, comprising:
  - a document capture device for delivering a scanned document from the user;
  - a scan server for receiving said scanned document from said document capture device;
  - a metadata acquisition service receiving a request from said scan server to acquire metadata;
  - a repository manager for receiving a request from said metadata acquisition service for a capability description; and
  - an e-mail server for sending an e-mail formatted by said metadata acquisition service to the user wherein the user edits said e-mail by entering metadata values and sends said e-mail to said metadata acquisition service for storage and later retrieval by said repository manager.
2. The document capture system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - said scan server providing temporary document storage while said metadata is acquired from the user.

3. The document capture system according to claim 2, further comprising:

said metadata acquisition service acquiring said metadata including a URL to a first page of said scanned document, user's email address, and a target repository's name.

4. The document capture system according to claim 3, further comprising:

said capability description includes names of supported repositories along with metadata names supported by each repository wherein said metadata acquisition service formats an email body with said metadata names supported by a specified repository.

5. The document capture system according to claim 4, further comprising:

said metadata acquisition service retrieves said first page of said scanned document from said scan server and formats it as an email attachment.

6. The document capture system according to claim 5, further comprising:

said metadata acquisition service retrieves said email reply and extracts said metadata values.

7. The document capture system according to claim 6, further comprising:

    said metadata acquisition service returns said metadata values to said scan server, completing said request for metadata acquisition.

8. The document capture system according to claim 7, further comprising:

    said scan server makes a request of said repository manager to store said document.

9. The document capture system according to claim 8, further comprising:

    said repository manager retrieves said captured document from said scan server.

10. The document capture system according to claim 9, further comprising:

    said repository manager stores said captured document and its associated metadata into a specified folder in said specified repository.

11. A method for capture of document metadata by a user, comprising the steps of:

delivering a scanned document by a document capture device to a scan server;

requesting a metadata acquisition service to acquire metadata by said scan server;

requesting a repository manager for a capability description from said metadata acquisition service; and

sending an e-mail from an e-mail server formatted by said metadata acquisition service to the user wherein the user edits said e-mail by entering metadata values and sends said e-mail to said metadata acquisition service for storage and later retrieval by said repository manager.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing temporary document storage by said scan server.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

acquiring said metadata including a URL to a first page of said scanned document, user's email address, and a target repository's name.

14. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of:

retrieving said first page of said scanned document from said scan server and formating it as an email attachment.

15. The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

retrieving said email reply and extracting said metadata values by said metadata acquisition service.

16. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

returning said metadata values to said scan server, completing said request for metadata acquisition.

17. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

requesting said repository manager to store said document by said scan server.

18. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

retrieving said captured document from said scan server by said repository manager.

19. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

storing said captured document and its associated metadata into a specified folder in said specified repository by said repository manager.

20. A document capture system, comprising:

means for delivering a scanned document by a document capture device to a scan server;

means for requesting a metadata acquisition service to acquire metadata by said scan server;

means for requesting a repository manager for a capability description from said metadata acquisition service; and

means for sending an e-mail from an e-mail server formatted by said metadata acquisition service to the user wherein the user edits said e-mail by entering metadata values and sends said e-mail to said metadata acquisition service for storage and later retrieval by said repository manager.